

# Holidays In Your Hometown

Pull out and keep this section for information and ideas on how to enjoy the holiday season in Santa Clara.

## Annual Holiday Tree Lighting

Friday, Dec. 6



Feel the spirit of an old fashioned small town Christmas! The City of Santa Clara will celebrate its annual "Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony" on Friday, Dec. 6. This year's merrymaking will be a celebration of lights and music, complete with cookies and kettle-corn as well as hamburgers and hot dogs. The evening also includes a very special guest who will arrive on a red fire engine! The event is open to the public, and will take place at the corner of Civic Center Drive and Lincoln Street in Santa Clara. Please remember to bring a canned food item for Second Harvest Food Bank. Call 408-615-3170 for further information.

## Look for Teddy at top of tree



*Torn raincoat on Teddy after a storm.*

Surrounded by 1,000 colored lights, Teddy the bear will once again be perched on top of the Santa Clara holiday tree watching the community celebrate and bring in the New Year.

Teddy was once the beloved toy of Alice Dixon Hillis whose father was the utilities superintendent for the City. When Alice was just one year old, Mr. Dixon "borrowed" her bear to serve as an ornament on top of the tree he had just cut down in the Santa Cruz Mountains for City Hall. Teddy has spent December on the Santa Clara tree ever since.

Over the years, Teddy the bear got a little bare. Employees of the Electric Department tried a mini-face lift with duct tape and silver spray paint, but Teddy continued to show his age. In 1987, Teddy underwent more drastic

surgery in the hands of Evelyn Carmichael, the wife of then Parks & Recreation Director Earl Carmichael. She refurbished Teddy with a furry tan cloth that closely resembles the way toy bears looked in 1911. At the time, the daughter of another City employee, Wendy Taylor, donated a

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## Four homes and new fire museum featured in Historic Home Tour



The 35-year tradition of the Santa Clara Historic Home Tour continues Dec. 6 and 7 with tours of four private residences in the Old Quad area of the City. Special this year will be a visit to the Saint Clare Hook & Ladder Fire Museum, 1900 Walsh Ave., a new museum that opens in October to showcase the history of firefighting in Santa Clara from 1855 to the present.

Homes on the tour include: the Franck Mansion, a 1905 Colonial Revival designed by Louis T. Lenzen and built by the son of a State Senator; the Peebles/Hichborn House, an 1868 Pioneer style with American Colonial, Greek Revival and Italianate details built by the man who introduced strawberry cultivation to Santa Clara County and later owned by a crusading journalist; the Hanna/Harmon House, a 1920s era Craftsman Bungalow built for a local realtor and later modified with a second story addition; and the Merrell/Eaton/Keir House, a circa 1905 Colonial Revival home whose third owner ran a local candy store for many years on old downtown Franklin Street.

Tours are scheduled from 6 to 10 p.m. on Friday and 12 noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday. The event is sponsored by the Historic Preservation Society of Santa Clara with the assistance of the Old Quad Residents' Association.

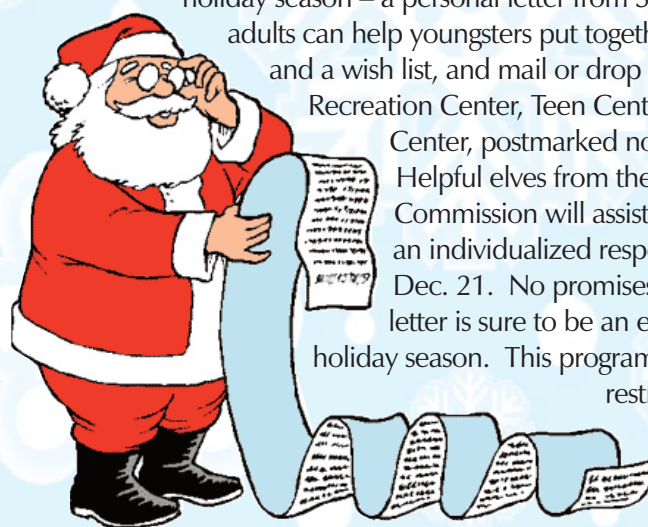
Early Bird tickets purchased by Oct. 31 are \$20. After Nov. 1, prices are: \$30 general admission and \$25 for seniors (60+) and youths (5-21). No children under the age of 5 will be admitted. If still available on day of the event, tickets will be sold at the door of 1179 Washington St. for \$35 per person.

Tickets may be purchased by mail from Santa Clara Historic Home Tour 2013, c/o HPSSC, P.O. Box 3311, Santa Clara, CA 95055-3311. (Tickets will be mailed out to purchasers beginning Nov. 1.) Mail-in purchases must be postmarked no later than Nov. 30. Tickets may also be

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## Letter from Santa for children who live in Santa Clara

Children who live in the City of Santa Clara can have a special treat this holiday season – a personal letter from Santa! Parents or other adults can help youngsters put together their message to Santa and a wish list, and mail or drop it off to the Community Recreation Center, Teen Center or Youth Activity Center, postmarked no later than Dec. 9. Helpful elves from the City of Santa Clara Youth Commission will assist Santa Claus in preparing an individualized response to each child by Dec. 21. No promises will be made, but the letter is sure to be an exciting memory for this holiday season. This program is FREE of charge and restricted to Santa Clara residents. For more information, call the Teen Center at 408-615-3740.







## Holiday Events (Continued from previous page)

purchased at City Lights Espresso, 1171 Homestead Rd., or the Antiques Colony, 1881 W. San Carlos St., San Jose, after Oct. 1. Tickets can be purchased online at [SC-Hometour.com](http://SC-Hometour.com).

Call the Historic Preservation Society's Harris-Lass Museum Message Line for further information at 408-249-7905 or email [hometour@harrislass.org](mailto:hometour@harrislass.org).

### Holiday Craft Faire

**Saturday, Nov. 16**

The 2013 Holiday Craft Faire scheduled for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. will feature the talents of local artists. You will find unique jewelry, beautiful artwork, and a variety of quality arts and crafts. If you are interested in participating as an artist, the applications are available at the Senior Center and online at [SantaClaraCA.gov](http://SantaClaraCA.gov) beginning September 3, 2013. Spots fill quickly and are assigned on a first-come-first-served basis. For more information, contact the Senior Center at 408-615-3170.

### Performance of "A Christmas Carol"

**Monday, Dec. 2**

Get in the holiday spirit with Broadway and film veteran Duffy Hudson who will present his unique one-man performance of "A Christmas Carol." Meet Ebenezer Scrooge and Tiny Tim and see ghosts of Christmas past, present, and yet-to-come. Duffy, without the aid of costumes or props, brings this classic magical holiday tale to life by playing all 30 of the well-loved Dickens characters. Curtain time is 6:30 p.m. in the Central Park Library Redwood Room. The free performance is perfect for the whole family. Call 408-615-2900 to sign up.

### Parents and kids prepare for the holidays together

**Dec. 3 & 10 and 5, 12 & 19**

Two special hands-on recreation classes will be offered in December to give parents and children the opportunity to have fun together while preparing for the holidays.

Make a memory, and your very own gingerbread house on Tuesday, Dec. 3 or Tuesday, Dec. 10, 10-11 a.m. at the Community Recreation Center. All ingredients are provided — everything from graham crackers to royal icing, from gumdrops to candy canes, and more. It's going to be a yummy time for parents and children ages 2 to 6! Cost is \$27 for residents and \$34 for non-residents.

Families will get ready to "Deck the Halls" at holiday craft classes held on three consecutive Thursdays, Dec. 5, 12 and 19, 9:30-10:15 a.m. at the Community Recreation Center. Create decorations and ornaments at your own pace, and experience other fun-filled activities. These lively classes will bring out the imagination in each participant, parents and children alike. Cost is \$36 for residents and \$45 for non-residents.

Call 408-615-3170 for details or register online at [SantaClaraCA.gov](http://SantaClaraCA.gov) and select Activities and Classes.

### Annual performances of "The Christmas Mouse"

**Dec. 6-8, 13-14**

It wouldn't seem like the holiday season without the annual performance of "The Christmas Mouse" by the Santa Clara Players, a play for the whole family based on the music of Linda Arnold. It tells the tale of a mouse who lives



with the Robinson family. Mrs. Robinson is determined to win the Gingerbread House contest this year, but her entry is destroyed by the mouse while looking for food for his family. After some twists and turns, there's a happy ending and the mouse learns about life and getting along with the big people.

The production is recommended for ages 4 and up. Curtain times at the Triton Museum Hall Pavilion are 7 p.m. on Fridays Dec. 6 and 13, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturdays, Dec. 7 and 14, and 3 p.m. on Sundays, Dec. 8 and 15. For ticket information, visit [SCPlayers.org](http://SCPlayers.org).

### Holiday Train

**Saturday, Dec. 7**

Caltrain's festively decorated Holiday Train will return to the Santa Clara Depot, carrying Santa and Mrs. Claus, the Salvation Army band, and carolers to lead the community in singing Christmas music. Also on board will be members of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve collecting new toys for its annual Toys for Tots drive. The train's arrival time will be announced later this fall. That same evening, the South Bay Historical Railroad Society will open the depot for visitors. Two model train displays will be operating and refreshments served. The Holiday Train is sponsored by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. For details, check the website [holiday-train.org](http://holiday-train.org).



### Family Day and Holiday Gift Fair

**Dec. 7 & 8**

Join the Triton Museum of Art on Saturday, Dec. 7, and Sunday, Dec. 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for free hands-on art activities and live performances by local arts groups that will delight both children and adults. In addition, more than 30 local artists will sell one-of-a-kind gift items perfect for that special someone on your shopping list. For more information, visit the website [TritonMuseum.org](http://TritonMuseum.org) or call 408-247-3754. The Triton Museum of Art is located at 1505 Warburton Ave. in Santa Clara.

### Holiday Jingle Jam for preschoolers

**Starting Dec. 11**

Singer/guitarist Sean Mendelson, aka "Teacher Sean," is offering special holiday music classes for children, ages 1-4 years, with festive dancing, holiday songs, moving, jamming and having fun! One adult may attend with two registered participants. Each class meets two times, with eight different sessions available. Classes begin December 11th. Fee is \$33 per child for City of Santa Clara residents and \$41 for non-residents. For more information regarding the schedule and registration procedures, please call the Walter E Schmidt Youth Activity Center at 408-615-3760, or check the *Fall Recreation Activities Guide* at [santaclaraca.gov](http://santaclaraca.gov) to register.

### Ladies Night Out: Gingerbread Houses

**Thursday, Dec. 12**

Take a break from the stress of the holidays with this fun hour of creativity for ladies only. You will create simple gingerbread houses using graham crackers, candy, and frosting. Register with a friend and receive a special holiday prize!! The event is scheduled 7-8 p.m. at the Community Recreation Center. Cost is \$38 for residents and \$48 for non-residents. Call 408-615-3170 for details.

### Holiday Craft Fair

**Saturday, Dec. 14**

Find one-of-a-kind gifts at the Holiday Craft Fair scheduled for 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Santa Clara Central Park Library. Local vendors will offer all types of hand-crafted items, holiday jewelry, cards and other great gifts. Craftspeople who would like to have a table can pick up an application at the Santa Clara City Library Foundation and Friends office on the second floor of the Library, 2635 Homestead Rd. Cost is \$25 per table, space is limited and vendors will be juried. Proceeds benefit Library programs. For information, call 408-615-2988.

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**Events** (Continued from previous page)

**Breakfast with Santa**

**Dec. 14**

Santa Claus and his elves will take a break during their busy time of getting ready for Christmas to come and have breakfast with Santa Clara children at the Santa Clara Senior Center, 1303 Fremont St. Following a tasty breakfast provided by the Santa Clara High School Booster Club, children will have the opportunity to pose for a photograph with Santa and create unique holiday crafts. The breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, coffee, milk, and orange juice. Bring the entire family from 9 to 11 a.m. to get into the holiday spirit! Children must be accompanied by an adult, minimum one adult per family. Pre-registration is required, and each family member, including children under 1 year old, must register. Call 408-615-3140 for more information or register online at [santaclaraca.gov](http://santaclaraca.gov).



**Nutcracker Ballet takes the stage**

**Dec. 14 & 15**



The Santa Clara Ballet will present its 40th annual full-length ballet production of “The Nutcracker” on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 15, at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. at the Santa Clara Convention Center. The company engages professional guest artists in lead roles, while providing opportunities for semi- and pre-professional dancers, children and adults to perform in a professional environment. Open auditions for dancers of all levels and ages will be held on Sunday, Sept. 15. For information, contact [info@santaclaraballet.com](mailto:info@santaclaraballet.com), call 408-865-9780 or visit [SantaClaraBallet.org](http://SantaClaraBallet.org).

**An evening with Santa**

**Thursday, Dec. 19**

Santa Claus is making a special trip to Santa Clara to spend the evening with families. Activities are designed for children ages 3-7, but children ages 0-7 may attend. The visit will be from 6 to 7:45 p.m. at the Community Recreation Center, 969 Kiely Blvd., and will feature festive crafts, holiday stories told by Santa Clara Library staff, holiday songs, yummy refreshments and a keepsake photo with Santa. Children must be accompanied by an adult, minimum one adult per family. Pre-registration is required, and each family member, one-year of age and older, must register. Children under one year are free. Tickets for children are \$6 for residents and \$8 non-residents. Adult tickets are \$2 for residents and \$3 for non-residents. To register, go to [SantaClaraCA.gov](http://SantaClaraCA.gov) and select Activities and Classes or call 408-615-3140.

**Prevent holiday tree fires**



House fires ignited by Christmas trees, both real and artificial, cause an average of 25 civilian deaths and \$13 million in direct property damage in the U.S. every year. Christmas tree fires are not frequent occurrences, but when they happen, they are likely to be serious.

The Santa Clara Fire Department recommends these simple, life-saving steps you can take to greatly reduce your chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.

**Selecting a tree**

- \* Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut.
- \* The trunk should be sticky to the touch.
- \* Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut for too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

**Caring for your tree**

- \* Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks.
- \* Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks.
- \* Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

**Disposing of your tree:**

- \* Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- \* When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly.
- \* The best way to dispose of your tree is to take advantage of the City’s tree recycling program.

**More holiday fire safety tips**

- ☐ Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up.
- ☐ Use only holiday lighting that has been listed by an approved testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL).
- ☐ Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe to do so.
- ☐ Make sure to periodically check the wires — they should not be warm to the touch.
- ☐ Do not leave holiday lights on unattended.
- ☐ Candles can be dangerous. If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down.
- ☐ Never leave candles burning unattended.
- ☐ Never put lit candles on a tree
- ☐ Do not go near a holiday tree with an open flame — candles, lighters or matches.

**Publisher shares book gift ideas**

Books make wonderful gifts, and a program on Tuesday, Nov. 5 at the Santa Clara Central Park Library will give you ideas for great books for adults and children. Jenn Ramage of Random House and City librarians will describe popular and new books of the year, and a lucky raffle winner will go home with new books to read or a gift donated by Random House.

The event begins at 6:30 p.m. and is part of the “Great Reads @ Your Library” book talk series presented by the Santa Clara City Library Foundation & Friends. For more information, visit the website [Library.SantaClaraCA.gov](http://Library.SantaClaraCA.gov).

**Teddy** (Continued from page A)

raincoat and boots to help Teddy stay dry during winter storms.

Life was pretty good for Teddy until the winter storms of 1998 when City crews were so busy keeping power on for local homes and businesses that Teddy had an extended stay in the tree. Birds destroyed the yellow rain gear to get to Teddy’s fur for their nests. Again, Evelyn Carmichael came to the rescue and gave Teddy a makeover that brought him back to his original charming look.

The City stopped cutting down trees for the holiday display in 1970, so Teddy’s December home has been the same 70-foot Colorado blue spruce for more than three decades.





# Holiday crime prevention tips

Unfortunately, the holidays present many opportunities for burglars, muggers and pick-pockets. The following tips for a safer holiday season are provided by your Santa Clara Police Department. Practice these tips all year long!



## Shopping Safety

- Lock packages in the trunk.
- Don't overload yourself with packages.
- If you must shop in the evening, shop with a friend.
- Park in well-lighted areas, as close as possible to store entrances. Be particularly aware of persons in the parking lot, especially near your car.
- Lock your car and make sure the windows are closed.
- Carry only the charge cards you will need. Don't carry or flash large sums of cash.
- Carry your purse next to your body with the purse flap against you. Men should carry their wallets in front or inside pockets.
- Be aware of your surroundings and the people around you. Don't allow your attention to become distracted from your purse or packages.
- Teach children to go to a store clerk or security guard and ask for help if you become separated in a store or shopping mall.
- Don't hesitate to notify store security if you see suspicious activity.
- If you have to wait for a ride, wait in a busy, well-lighted place.
- If you are a victim of a crime, report it to police immediately.

## Home Safety

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even if you will only be gone for a minute.
- Don't put large displays of holiday gifts in view of your windows or doors.
- When going on trips or out for evenings, use automatic timers to turn indoor lights on and off to make it appear you are home.
- Immediately after the holidays, mark new gifts with your California Driver's License or ID number. Engravers are available at the Central Park Library for check out.
- Don't advertise what gifts you received by putting the boxes curbside on trash day. Break the boxes down before placing curbside, or take them to a recycling center yourself.

## Traveling

- Use automatic timers for lights in your home.
- Stop mail and newspaper delivery.
- Ask neighbors to look after your home.
- Don't tell the world that your home will be empty by posting vacation plans on Facebook, Twitter or other social networking websites.

# Recycle your holiday tree

The holiday season's final tradition is putting the tree out for curbside recycling. This year, trees will be picked up on your regular solid waste collection day during the week of Jan. 6-10, 2014. Here's what to do:



- Remove all ornaments, tinsel, nails, and the stand. Flocked trees cannot be recycled, so they will be collected and disposed of as garbage.
- Residents with Clean Green service can place the stripped tree next to the solid waste cart setouts at the curb on your regular collection day.
- Residents who don't have Clean Green service can set out their holiday trees on the nearest public street for pickup on the assigned single family home garbage/recycling collection days. Call 408-615-3080 to find out assigned garbage/recycling days in particular areas.
- Trees may also be recycled after Jan. 10 by cutting up the tree and placing the pieces in the Clean Green cart.

For more information on holiday tree recycling, call 408-615-3080.

# Museum-quality models on display at Train Show



Two museum-quality model railroad and a collection of railroad artifacts – many provided by local families steeped in railroad history – will be on display at the Model Train Show at the historic Santa Clara Depot on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 2-3, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

The HO and N-scale model train displays at the Santa Clara Depot are works in process. Both layouts depict operations in the late 1960s, with scenery (structures, industries and businesses) and vehicles consistent with real railroad operations of that period.

Another focus of the train show is the organization's Company Store, which sells used model railroad trains and accessories, and railroad memorabilia, books, magazines, DVDs and other items.

The South Bay Historical Railroad Society is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization founded in 1985 to restore and maintain the historic former Southern Pacific Santa Clara Depot and to maintain a museum and a library of railroad-related information.

The Edward Peterman Museum of Railroad History includes a collection of railroad lanterns and many historic trackside and grade crossing signaling devices, as well as memorabilia that celebrate the heritage of local railroad workers. The Santa Clara interlocking control tower, which for many years stood sentry over the adjacent rail yard, will be open for tours between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. each day, weather permitting. Also available for tours between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. is the historic business car No. 184 from the former Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation Co.

A donation of \$5 for adults will be collected at the entrance to the depot. Admission for persons under 18 is free. For more information, visit the website [SBHRS.org](http://SBHRS.org).

# Get your nominations in for Holiday Decorations Contest



Nominations for the annual Holiday Outdoor Decorations Contest will be accepted from Nov. 25 through Dec. 6. Decorate the exterior of your home or business in cheerful, colorful holiday décor and talk to your neighbors about doing the same. Nominate yourself, your neighbor, or one of the brightly lit homes or businesses you've seen around the City.

Nominations for best outdoor decorations in four categories (residential, business, neighborhood, and best tree) will be evaluated by a team of judges on Tuesday, Dec. 10. Winners will be announced Dec. 11. Then you can check the City's website at [SantaClaraCA.gov](http://SantaClaraCA.gov) for the winners along with the full list of entrants in convenient driving order. Winners will be acknowledged at a City Council meeting in early January 2014.

For more information, contact the City Manager's Office at 408-615-2210.